



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

FEB 16 2001

Mr. James H. Davis, Ph.D., Chief  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

FEB 26 2001

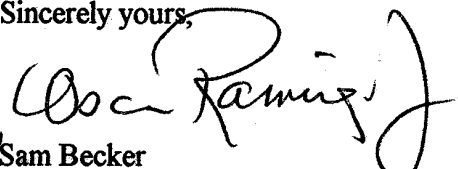
Dear Mr. Davis:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the document *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Metals (Chronic Aluminum) in Cieneguilla Creek"* and is pleased to approve the Cieneguilla Creek TMDL for dissolved aluminum as an update to work element six of the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan. Please note that implementation plans are not required by current regulations and neither the existence nor the adequacy of any implementation plans contained within this submission were a factor in EPA's decision to approve or disapprove the TMDL.

EPA received the final TMDL on December 20, 2000, accompanied by your letter dated December 12, 2000. We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing this TMDL.

Based on our review, detailed in the enclosed document, we conclude that the TMDL listed above meets the requirements found in Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7. If you would like to discuss this approval, please contact me or Willie Lane of my staff at (214) 665-8460.

Sincerely yours,

  
Sam Becker  
Acting Director  
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure